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Letter dated 23 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Ecuador has requested an urgent meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States for today in view of the latest flagrant violations by Peru of the cease-fire agreement established by the Itamaraty Peace Accord of 17 February 1995. These violations have taken the form of military attacks, directed especially at Tiwinza base, at a time when members of an advanced mission of the Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol were in the area.

Peru has used the days following the signing of the Itamaraty Peace Accord to regroup and strengthen its military contingents in the combat zone and has launched attacks more intensive even than those which preceded the cease-fire. It has even used chemical and other weapons which are banned because of their indiscriminate and inhumane effects.

I should like to suggest that you ask the Permanent Representatives of the Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America, for more information about this violation of the Peace Accord.

For your information I enclose a copy of the press release issued yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

Annex

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today denounced further flagrant violations by Peru of the cease-fire agreement established in the Itamaraty Peace Accord signed on 17 February 1995.

Today, Peruvian patrols that have infiltrated the Tiwintza base sector continued their attacks, this time using mortar fire; this creates a serious risk that hostilities may resume at the same level of intensity as had been reached prior to the signing of the Accord.

The latest Peruvian attacks are all the more serious in that they are occurring when members of the advance mission from the Guarantor countries are in the sector. These hostile actions are clearly intended to impede the mission's work; they are seriously endangering the mission's safety and are seriously jeopardizing implementation of the commitments assumed in Brasilia.

As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the press yesterday, Ecuador has provided members of the advance mission with every facility in order to enable them to carry out their assignment. In order to guarantee the mission's safety, yesterday the Ministry notified the Peruvian Government officially, through our embassy in Lima, of the mission's visit and indicated the proposed itinerary; it even indicated what markings would be on the two helicopters that would be taking the mission to the area of conflict. The Foreign Ministry of Peru adopted an unusual and baffling attitude; it returned the note in question to the Ecuadorian Ambassador, Gustavo Ruales, claiming that the notification should have come from the guarantors, and completely disregarded the safety of the said observers. All this highlights Peru's rash refusal to comply with the most elementary obligations of the Accord of 17 February.

Given the seriousness of these events, the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning called the Ambassadors of the Guarantor Countries to his office to hand them the original of an official note - which had been sent directly by fax - addressed to the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Brazil and Chile and to the United States Secretary of State. In it, the Ecuadorian Government denounces Peru's attitude, which may be part of a plan to stave off the visit by the military observers and prevent verification of the implementation of the cease-fire agreed upon in Brasilia.

Today, just after the advance mission of observers left Coangos, Peruvian forces unleashed a massive attack on the position at Tiwintza, thereby emphasizing that we are dealing not with a simple violation of the cease-fire but with a demonstration of complete disregard for the Peace Accord; this greatly complicates the subsequent processes aimed at pacification of the area.

The Foreign Minister informed the Ambassadors that Ecuadorian forces are maintaining their positions and are limiting their action to defending themselves from the Peruvian attacks. He reiterated that the Ecuadorian Government has taken the necessary steps to guarantee the safety of the

observers, and he urged the Guarantor Countries to demand that the Government of Peru comply promptly with the cease-fire, that being the first step under the Accord.

Lastly, Foreign Minister Gallo Leoro informed them that the Observer Mission would have to commence its work earlier than the scheduled date of 8 March in order to prevent further bloodshed resulting from the continuous attacks by Peru, and in order to prevent the Peruvian patrols that were infiltrating into the zone from taking advantage of the situation and consolidating their position in the area of conflict.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs further stated that the Secretary General of the Ministry had summoned the Chargé d'affaires of Peru to his office this afternoon and had handed him a note in which the Ecuadorian Government protested in the strongest terms the recent attacks by Peru which constitute a flagrant violation of the commitment established in the Itamaraty Peace Declaration. The Deputy Foreign Minister of Ecuador reminded the Peruvian diplomat that the facilities and broad cooperation provided by Ecuador to the Observer Mission contrasted with the aggressiveness demonstrated to the Mission by the Armed Forces of Peru. Finally, he reiterated that the Peruvian Government must faithfully comply with the commitments it had assumed in Brasilia, in order for peace to be restored between the two countries and in order to return to the climate of friendship and understanding necessary for them to find a way, once and for all, out of the deadlock.

Quito, 22 February 1995